The lining is composed entirely of horsehair, and this is laid with precision, and shaped into a prettily formed cup, the brim being turned with exquisite grace. The dimensions of the nest are, outside, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches high and $2\frac{3}{4}$ to 3 inches across the mouth; inside, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide.

The eggs are of much the same dull white ground-color, of a slightly ashen hue, as that of the Magnolia's. The form of the egg is different, however, the Cape May's being less pyriform—the point less acute. The markings are of light and dark lilac, and yellowish and reddish tints of brown; the brown being on the surface and the lilac underneath, the coatings of shell producing the various shades. As a rule the spots are circular and very small—many being quite minute—and are irregularly distributed, no two eggs bearing the same pattern, though in all four there is decided tendency to concentration in a ring near the large end; but on some there are spots over the larger part of the entire shell, while the small end of others is immaculate. The measurements are .69 × .49, .65 × .49, .66 × .49, .66 × .48.

BIRD NOTES FROM LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

BY WILLIAM DUTCHER.

1. **Passerculus princeps** *Maynard.* IPSWICH SPARROW.—Wishing to ascertain whether this species is as rare as it has been generally supposed to be, or was overlooked from the inaccessibility of its winter habitat, I arranged with two of my correspondents to send me all the individuals of this species that they could secure. Both of them spend the winter months on the beach, one at Fire Island Inlet and the other at Shinnecock Bay, which is some forty miles further east. That they might be perfectly familiar with these birds, I sent them early in the autumn a skin of one as a sample. December 29, 1883, I received from my Fire Island correspondent twenty-nine specimens which he shot between December 17 and 29. He informed me that he had looked carefully but unsuccessfully for them until December 17, when he found six and secured them all. Subsequent to that time and prior to the 29th he secured twenty-three additional specimens. He also added that he usually observed them in pairs, although sometimes there would be three or four together. They were always found feeding on the seeds of tall grasses and weeds that

were above the snow level. January 30 he wrote, "I have not seen any Sparrows lately." My Shinnecock Bay correspondent did not succeed in getting any specimens until February 4, 1884, when he sent me four, and also stated, "these birds are very scarce." February 27, 1884, he succeeded in securing two additional specimens, which he sent to me, and again directed my attention to their scarcity. February 22, 1884, I hunted carefully for this Sparrow on Rockaway Beach, but unsuccessfully. I am quite positive, however, that I saw three or four individuals, but they were so wild I could not secure them. March 7, 1884, my correspondent at Fire Island wrote that he had seen but one Sparrow since the first cold spell when he sent me twenty-nine, and that he was at a loss to know whether he had killed them all or whether they had gone away. Of the thirty-five specimens received five measured 6.75 inches in length, and only two were under 6.15 inches. The largest and smallest birds measured respectively:

Length, 6.75; extent, 10.50; wing, 3.20.
" 6.10; " 9.25; " 2.65.

The average of the thirty-five specimens was: length, 6.49; extent, 10.02; wing, 3.03.

2. **Nyctea scandiaca** (*Linn.*) *Newt.* SNOWY OWL.—The entire absence from Long Island during the winter of 1883 and '84 of this Owl is noteworthy. During the winter of 1882 and '83 it was, on the other hand, remarkably plenty. None of my correspondents, about thirty in number, record a single individual seen. These Owls, being so much sought after for ornamental purposes, are watched for very closely by the professional gunners, and thus rarely escape being at least noted if they are not secured.

3. **Ægialites melodus** (*Ord*) *Bp.* PIPING PLOVER.—March 24, 1884, Mr. Newbold T. Lawrence, while at Shinnecock Bay, saw one of these Plovers which had been shot that day by a sportsman stopping at Capt. Lane's. Noted as an early date.

4. **Macrorhamphus griseus scolopaceus** (*Say*) *Coues.* RED-BELLIED SNIPE.—July 23, 1884, while shooting at Shinnecock Bay, three individuals of this species came to my stools at the same time, two of which were secured. I sent them to Dr. A. K. Fisher of Sing Sing, N. Y., with particulars of their capture. He wrote me as follows: "I should consider No. 55 a fair example of *M. griseus scolopaceus*. No. 56 is one of those, doubtful; just on the line; but if the note was different it might be considered the mate of No. 55, as they were male and female." The bill of the larger specimen measured 2.83 inches and of the smaller 2.38 inches.

5. **Larus glaucus** *Brünn.* GLAUCOUS GULL; BURGOMASTER.—March 11, 1884, I purchased one of a pair of Gulls of this species, which had been shot by a gunner at South Oyster Bay. The specimen I bought is in very nearly the same plumage as the one recorded by Dr. E. A. Mearns in the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club,' Vol. V, p. 189. The other one is a younger bird.

6. **Sterna anglica** *Montag.* GULL-BILLED TERN.—I shot a female in full plumage July 8, 1884, at Shinnecock Bay, while watching for Limicolæ. There were five in the flock, it being without doubt a family of two adults and their brood of the present year. They were migrating westward along the coast and must have bred further east than Long Island.

7. **Utamania torda** (*Linn.*) *Leach.* RAZOR-BILLED AUK.—January 15, 1884, I received from a correspondent at Southampton, a specimen of this species accompanied by the following note: "The bird I send you was found dead on the seashore. It is likely it was drowned in the heavy surf we had just before. It was a new bird to me." February 2, 1884, I received another from a correspondent at Smith's Point, which was also found dead on the beach. February 6, 1884, I received still another from Southampton, not, however, from the same correspondent who sent me the one January 15. With it came the following interesting note: "I found this bird on the beach last night while on my patrol, and as it was a stranger to this coast I send it. I have been in the Life-Saving Service nine years and have never seen one before." All three birds were remarkable for the poor condition they were in, and also for the total absence of food of any kind in their stomachs.

8. **Lomvia arra bruennichi** (*Sch.*) *Ridgw.* BRÜNNICH'S GUILLEMOT.—Between January 8 and March 24, 1884, I obtained twelve specimens and noted about thirty additional individuals of this species from the south side of Long Island. A large majority of the specimens obtained were either found dead on the beach, generally frozen, or else so weak from hunger that they were easily captured by hand and died within a few hours. The only exception to the above was two that were shot by a gunner at Rockaway, who had them come to his Duck decoys. Dr. C. Hart Merriam mentions the same circumstance of starvation in connection with the Foolish Guillemot in his 'List of Birds ascertained to occur within ten miles from Point de Monts, Province of Quebec, Canada.'* "They were all in very poor flesh, some being little more than animated skeletons, and a great many died and were washed ashore."

The notes accompanying the specimens indicate that this species is a very uncommon winter visitor to the western end of Long Island, and an irregular winter visitor to the extreme eastern portion of the Island. From a correspondent at Ditch Plain, which is very near the eastern extremity of the Island, I get the following note: "The bird sent was picked up dead on the beach after an easterly storm. At such times we have quite often found them, and have also seen them alive. I think they are driven on our shore by severe northeast gales, as after such storms is about the only time we find them." Another correspondent, from Shinnecock Bay, which is about thirty miles west of Ditch Plain, writes: "They are rather a rare bird on this coast, but during the winter in severe storms you will see one occasionally." A correspondent from Smith's Point, which is about midway between New York City and Mon-

* Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, Vol. VII, p. 242.

tauk Point, says, "Do not see them every winter. They appear to be a very dumb bird. I picked this one up on the beach alive, and was going to send it to you that way, but it died before I could do so. The Captain of our Station says 'to the best of his knowledge he has never seen one before.' He has been in the Life-Saving Service twelve years." At South Oyster Bay and Rockaway, which are but a few miles from the western end of the Island, the gunners and Life-Saving men had never seen them before, and at the former place the single one shot was considered so rare that it was preserved and mounted.

FIELD NOTES FROM PICTOU COUNTY, NOVA SCOTIA.

BY JAMES MCKINLAY.

Shortly after the commencement of the present century the Pictou Academy was founded, and its first superintendent was Dr. Thomas McCulloch, a gentleman of high literary attainments, who numbered among his friends the illustrious Audubon. With a view to promote the various branches of scientific research he early directed his attention to the establishment of a museum in connection with the Academy, intending among other objects to gather there a complete representation of the zoölogy of the Province of Nova Scotia, especially that of the eastern portion, at that time called the District of Pictou. So energetically was the scheme prosecuted that little more than a quarter of a century had elapsed ere the enterprise had attained a high degree of excellence, and the collection was pronounced by Audubon, who visited it, to be surpassed by none other, at that time, in America. Unhappily, however, that valuable collection was suffered to pass entirely out of our Province, which is the more to be regretted as many of the species represented have since become extinct or extremely rare to our fauna.

This applies to the mammals as well as to the birds, but the change is most marked numerically in certain aquatic species of the feathered race, for instead of the vast multitudes which in former days were wont to visit our bays and harbors in early spring and in autumn, now we meet but a few small and scat-